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EuPA Company Club Corner Abstracts

Flagship program for EuPA Initiatives: Opportunities for the EuPA Company Club

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Proteomics is quite mature to assimilate new market niches. These niches are created by natural curiosity of proteome scientists, challenged by a number of difficulties in developing actual deliverables for the market over 20 years of hard and enthusiastic work. Playing the proteomics challenge without a team may be financially risky. We have launched new Flagship Programs of EuPA Initiatives in order to help fill the gap between the large and heterogeneous European scientific community and the world of enterprises. During the session we will discuss how the social networking environment could be used to keep pace of investments in proteomics. Representatives of future and current start-ups, SMEs and large established corporations are invited for this brainstorming.

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Standardization initiative. Integrating proteomic strengths across Europe

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Mass spectrometry has experienced huge advances in the last decade increasing the accuracy and capacity of protein/peptide measurements in complex biological samples. The possibility of massive protein identification and quantification converts proteomics in one of the most valuable analytical resources to understand sophisticated cellular processes at the functional level. However, if proteomics has to deliver its resources and capabilities to the scientific community then, reliability, robustness and reproducibility must be ensured. To this end, it is mandatory to define quality control procedures and standardized protocols for the whole proteomics workflow, from sample collection and preparation to data computational analysis and exchange. Noteworthy, the translation of analytical results into relevant biological knowledge and practical applications is often hampered by the lack of standardized protocols that emerge, which, therefore, is an urgent need. To this end the initiative will focus on the standardization of proteomics workflows to consolidate a common space integrating proteomic strengths across Europe, to increase the penetrance of proteomics in other scientific disciplines, to facilitate the implementation of state of the art methods and technology in emergent platforms and, very importantly, to generate synergies with industrial partners.

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Affinity Binder Knock-Down Initiative

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Background: An enormous amount of publicly available affinity binders are available on the market and many of the affinity binders are not working as expected. Several studies suggest that only 25–50% of the antibodies meet the expectations. This results in a lot of wasted resources (material, time, and money). Therefore, a quality assurance program in proteomics research is needed.

Purpose: The purpose of the Affinity Binder Knock-Down Initiative ('Initiative') is to gather knowledge in a systematic and standardized system to assure the functionality of affinity reagents.

Implementation: The research community and life science companies will jointly work on improved quality of affinity reagents. The participating industrial partners provide antibodies and gene silencing reagents and the researchers use gene silencing to prove antibody specificity in particular application(s). The results are submitted back to the Initiative and made publicly available on Antibodypedia (www.antibodypedia.com, a site for searching and comparing antibodies). The researchers are reimbursed for the positive data submitted. By joining this public-private partnership, the participating parts agree to fulfill a number of undertakings that will be discussed during the presentation.

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